

Claims

1 1. A method for managing usage of a plurality of standby resources included
2 within a plurality of computers, wherein each computer of the plurality of computers
3 includes at least one standby resource of the plurality of resources, the method comprising:
4 limiting availability to a first standby resource included within a source computer of
5 the plurality of computers; and
6 programmatically transferring the availability to a second standby resource included
7 within a destination computer of the plurality of computers.

1 2. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes verifying the limiting availability.

1 3. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes maintaining a physical distribution of
3 the first and second standby resources as between the source and destination computers.

1 4. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes maintaining respective workloads as
3 between the source and destination computers.

1 5. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes updating an entitlement database.

1 6. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein limiting the availability further includes generating a request to downgrade the
3 availability.

1 7. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 further comprising using an entitlement application computer to manage the usage.

1 8. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein limiting the availability further includes generating a request to upgrade the
3 availability.

1 9. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein limiting the availability further includes generating a signature indicative of the
3 availability.

1 10. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein limiting the availability further includes generating an activation code.

1 11. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein limiting the availability further includes determining the first standby resource.

1 12. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes determining the second standby
3 resource.

1 13. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes generating an activation code.

1 14. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes storing data associated with the
3 transferring.

1 15. The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1,
2 wherein transferring the availability further includes determining an availability status using
3 an entitlement database.

1 16. An apparatus comprising:
2 a source computer including a first standby resource;
3 a destination computer including a second standby resource; and
4 program code in communication with at least one of the source and destination
5 computers, the program code configured to initiate limiting availability to the first standby
6 resource and to programmatically transfer the availability to the second standby resource.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a memory including a record
2 relating to respective availabilities of the first and second standby resources.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an entitlement computer for
2 managing the availability.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates verifying the
2 availability.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein a physical distribution of the first and
2 second standby resources remains the same as between the source and destination
3 computers.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein respective workloads as between the source
2 and destination computers is unaffected by the programmatic transfer.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates updating an
2 entitlement database.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating a
2 request to downgrade the availability.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating a
2 request to upgrade the availability.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating a
2 signature indicative of the availability.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating an
2 activation code.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates determining the
2 first standby resource.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates determining the
2 second standby resource.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates storing data
2 associated with the programmatic transfer.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates determining an
2 availability status using an entitlement database.

1 31. An apparatus comprising: ✓
2 a processor in communication with both a source computer including a first standby
3 resource and a destination computer including a second standby resource; and
4 program code executable by the processor and configured to initiate limiting
5 availability to the first standby resource and to programmatically transfer the availability to
6 the second standby resource.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the program code is further configured to
2 initiate generating a fee associated with the programmatic transfer.

1 33. An apparatus comprising: /
2 a processor;
3 a first standby resource in communication with the processor; and
4 program code executable by the processor, the program code configured to initiate
5 limiting availability to the first standby resource, wherein the availability is transferred to a
6 second standby resource of a destination computer.

1 34. An apparatus comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a first standby resource in communication with the processor; and
4 program code executable by the processor, the program code configured to initiate
5 increasing availability to the first standby resource, wherein the availability is transferred
6 from a second standby resource of a source computer.

- 1 35. A program product, comprising:
- 2 (a) program code in communication with at least one of the source and destination
- 3 computers having access to first and second standby resources, respectively, the program
- 4 code configured to initiate limiting availability to the first standby resource and to
- 5 programmatically transfer the availability to the second standby resource; and
- 6 (b) a signal bearing medium bearing the program code.

- 1 36. The program product of claim 35, wherein the signal bearing medium includes
- 2 at least one of a recordable medium and a transmission-type medium.